

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 261400Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3327

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS

SUBJECT: DECISION TO ENFORCE POLICY AGAINST UNAUTHORIZED
SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK

REF: TEL AVIV 4210

JERUSALEM 1510

1. SUMMARY: GOI JULY 26 HAS RE-AFFIRMED ITS DECISION NOT TO
ALLOW UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENTS ON WEST BANK. PERES HAS PROPOSED
COMPROMISE BY WHICH GROUP TRYING TO ESTABLISH ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT
WOULD MOVE TO LOCATION ON BORDER OF SAMARIA AND JORDAN VALLEY.
BUT, ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORTS, GOI HAS NOT AUTHORIZED NEW
LOCATION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR INFO ON OUTCOME OF CABINET
MEETING TODAY CONCERNING ATTEMPTED SETTLEMENT IN SEBASTIA (SEE
REFTELS) MORDECHAI GAZIT INFORMED US OF DECISION, WHICH WAS
BROADCAST BY INFO MINISTER YARIV 3 PM JULY 26 ON RADIO ISRAEL.

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3. CABINET UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED PROPOSALS MADE BY PM THAT:

(A) SETTLEMENTS IN THE TERRITORIES ARE ESTABLISHED ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVT DECISIONS, (B) THE GOVT WILL PREVENT ANY ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS WITHOUT ITS APPROVAL AND DECISION, AND (C) THE PM AND DEFMIN ARE AUTHORIZED TO CARRY OUT THIS POLICY. WHEN ASKED WHAT THE GOVT NOW PLANNED TO DO, GAZIT EVADED RESPONSE.

4. RADIO ISRAEL REPORTED THAT SECRETARIAT OF SETTLERS HAS IN MEANTIME ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD ACCEPTED PROPOSAL TO MOVE TO A CAMP ON THE BORDER OF SAMARIA AND THE JORDAN VALLEY ON CONDITION THAT IT IS A TEMPORARY LOCATION. THIS PROPOSAL REPORTEDLY WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE SETTLERS BY LIKUD LEADER MENACHAM BEGIN, MK, FOLLOWING A MEETING HE HAD WITH DEFMIN PERES THIS MORNING. SETTLERS' SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT IF OFFICIAL PROPOSAL REACHES THEM TODAY, THEY WILL MOVE PROVIDING IT CAN BE DONE BEFORE THE SABBATH. SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT SETTLERS HAVE NOT GIVEN UP IDEA OF ESTABLISHING PERMANENT SETTLEMENT ON SHOMRON MOUNTAIN (WITHIN SAMARIA). RADIO ISRAEL REPORTED THAT SOME SETTLERS OPPOSE ANY DECISION TO MOVE.

5. 4 PM RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT, FOLLOWING GOI DECISION, DEFMIN PERES HAD MEETING WITH FOUR OPPOSITIN MKS AND SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE THAT GOVT AUTHORIZE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT 10 KM EAST OF NABLUS ON SAMARIA AND JORDAN VALLEY BORDER. HE WAS ASKED BY THE MKS NOT TO USE FORCE TO EVICT SETTLERS. RADION ALSO REPORTED HEALTH MINISTER SHEMTOV SAYING THAT NO GOVT DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON RELOCATION.

6. IRONCIALLY, GOVT DECISION WAS MADE SAME DAY PRESS REPORTED INTERVIEW WITH PM RABIN STATING THAT MOST DIFFICULT DECISION HE HAS MADE AS PM WAS TO EVICT ISRAELIS WHO MADE SIMILAR ILLEGAL EFFORT TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENT ON WEST BANK JUNE 5. RABIN ALSO REPORTED IN PRESS AS BLAMING OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR EFFORT TO ESTABLISH NEW SETTLEMENT, CALLING IT "CHEAP POLITICAL GESTURE".

7. IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT HOW GOVT WILL HANDLE SITUATION. GOI DECISION REFLECTS DETERMINED BID TO ENFORCE POLICY ON WEST BANK SETTLEMENT, WITH POSSIBILITY OF PERMITTING SETTLEMENT NEAR JORDAN VALLEY BORDER AS COMPROMISE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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AVOID, OR AT LEAST POSTPONE, VIOLENT CONFRONTAION.

8. ONCE AGAIN, WE HAVE EVIDENCE OF POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL CLASHES OVER EMOTIONALLY CHARGED ISSUE OF RIGHT OF JEWS TO SETTLE IN WEST BANK.
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